



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 1542.4B
N889J3
01 October 1999

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1542.4B

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: All Ships and Stations (less Marine Corps field addressees not having Navy personnel attached)
Subj: NAVAL AVIATOR/FLIGHT SURGEON/AEROSPACE PHYSIOLOGIST/
AVIATION EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGIST (NA/FS/AP/AEP) PROGRAM
Ref: (a) MILPERSMAN 6610360
(b) OPNAVINST 3710.7R
(c) Section 301a, Title 37, U.S. Code
Encl: (1) NA/FS/AP/AEP Program Application

1. Purpose. To provide information, policy, and procedures for administration of the Naval Aviator/Flight Surgeon/Aerospace Physiologist/Aviation Experimental Psychologist (NA/FS/AP/AEP) Program. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1542.4A.

3. Discussion. Throughout this instruction, naval aviator shall refer to pilot or naval flight officer, flight surgeon applies to Medical Corps (MC) officers, and naval aerospace physiologists and aviation experimental psychologists applies to Medical Service Corps (MSC) officers.

4. Background. Development of effective new air weapon systems in the past has been highly sensitive to human engineering factors. The unique demands of naval aviation and the multiplicity of aviation programs require the support of a limited officer inventory skilled concurrently in the professional qualifications of naval aviator and flight surgeon/aerospace physiologist/aviation experimental psychologist. To meet that requirement, selected individuals trained as medical officers have been cross-trained as naval aviators. Their assignments were selectively made to meet the identified requirements of billets or projects/programs requiring the skills of both disciplines in a single individual. The billets predominated in, but were not limited to, Navy research and development activities. The increasing number and complexity of emerging weapon systems require the dual designation of a naval aviator and flight surgeon/ aerospace physiologist/aviation experimental psychologist. The need to maintain a group of individuals qualified as both naval aviator and flight surgeon to support naval aeromedical efforts was recognized and implemented in May 1976.

01 OCT 1999

5. Program Description. The program shall meet the following guidelines:

a. Reference (a) stipulates trainees shall incur the same minimum service obligation as that incurred for naval aviator training, to commence upon designation as a NA/FS/AP/AEP. Previously designated aviators receiving refresher training only shall incur the same minimum service obligation as all other naval aviators who undergo like training.

b. Physical standards established for Service Group I Naval Aviators and Class II Naval Flight Officers apply to those personnel entering the NA/FS/AP/AEP program. Previously designated naval aviators who subsequently were designated flight surgeons/aerospace physiologists/aviation experimental psychologists shall be under the age of 38 at commencement of flight refresher training. Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) (Code N88) will approve age waivers for flight training, on a case basis.

6. Administration. Procedures and criteria for the NA/FS/AP/AEP program are:

a. Those flight surgeons/aerospace physiologists/aviation experimental psychologists who were previously designated naval aviators are eligible for this program. Those flight surgeons/aerospace physiologists/aerospace experimental psychologist not previously designated are not primary candidates for the NA/FS/AP/AEP program but may be considered for flight training based on the needs of the Navy. (See paragraph 7)

b. Medical Corps and Medical Service Corps officers who are formerly designated naval aviators and who successfully completed a prescribed flight surgeon/aerospace physiology/aerospace experimental psychologist syllabus shall submit enclosure (1), NA/FS/AP/AEP Program Application, to Chief of Naval Personnel (NPC-43) via Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) (MED-23) and CNO (N889). Applications must include a record of all previous military service, a summary of all military and civilian flight experience, and a current complete aviation physical examination.

c. Chief of Naval Personnel (NPC-43) will annually convene and chair a formal selection board to consider NA/FS/AP/AEP program applicants. The board will have representatives from CNO (N889) as well as BUMED (MED-23).

d. Upon acceptance, candidates will complete an appropriate flight refresher program as directed by CNO (N88) to reestablish currency as a naval aviator.

7. Other Service Aeronautical Designation. Flight Surgeons/Aerospace Physiologists/Aviation Experimental Psychologists not previously designated as naval aviators who hold aeronautical pilot ratings from another military service shall be considered as a separate category during any selection board proceedings. Applications and procedures shall follow the provisions in paragraph 6.

8. Training. Initial and follow-on training requirements for the NA/FS/AP/AEP program are:

a. Initial flight refresher training for candidates previously designated as naval aviators, or those acceptable candidates holding previous aeronautical pilot ratings from another military service, will consist of a tailored syllabus in the intermediate and advanced strike (jet) flight training program. In selected individual cases, considering previous aviation experience, operational and research needs and other requirements, appropriate refresher training may be conducted in other than jet programs. To preclude unnecessary training, Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) will determine training requirements on an individual basis.

b. Flight training will be authorized by CNO (N889) only for those individuals who will function as assigned NA/FS/AP/AEP, and will not be approved for former naval aviators primarily serving in hospital-based clinical specialties.

9. Career Pattern

a. Upon completion of appropriate training, officers designated as NA/FS/AP/AEP shall remain members of the Navy Medical Corps/Medical Service Corps. Once designated as NA/FS/AP/AEP, officers will serve a minimum of three duty tours in billets requiring dual designator qualification. It is anticipated that three tours will be among the first five following designation to obtain maximum return to the Navy from the training investment. Such an assignment strategy will also sustain the highest measure of flight skill currency and safety, and assure a broadly based and current cadre of dual designation experience from which to draw for senior management assignments requiring such background and qualification.

b. The following duty assignment categories will fulfill the NA/FS/AP/AEP service requirements and provide maximum career/program development potential. These assignments support the requirement for sufficient dual designated officers to meet research and development programmed personnel requirements.

(1) For All Dual-Designators: Assignment to an aeromedical safety, operation/fleet staff or selected research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) management billets.

(2) For Flight Surgeons:

(a) Assignment to a tactical jet fleet readiness squadron.

(b) Assignments to post graduate training (aerospace medicine residency, Master of Public Health (MPH), or aeromedical sub-specialty.

(c) Assignment as Senior Medical Officer aboard an aircraft carrier.

(d) Assignment to further management/military training and senior flight surgeon or command billets, as appropriate.

10. Billet Identification. Billets assigned to Training/Fleet Readiness Squadrons, R&D activities, and Aeromedical Safety positions will be utilized for NA/FS/AP/AEP duty assignments. The billets will continue to be identified by existing 2102/2302 billet designators and

01 OCT 1999

0110/0163/0849/0852 (NOBC) codes. If more discrete billet identification is required, a secondary NOBC of the 8500 series, denoting aircraft qualification, may be assigned.

11. Program Implementation

a. Flight surgeons/aerospace physiologists/aviation experimental psychologists formerly designated as naval aviators are not authorized to fly as naval aviators unless in training for or designated as an NA/FS/AP/AEP.

b. Individuals designated NA/FS/AP/AEP are not authorized to fly as a naval aviator unless specifically ordered to duty involving operational and training flights as an NA/FS/AP/AEP.

c. Medical officers in training for and/or designated as NA/FS/AP/AEP (aviators) are authorized to pilot naval aircraft and log pilot time during periods of flight training leading to designation and, upon designation, when assigned to specified NA/FS/AP/AEP operational flying billets. During periods of assignments to other billets, the provisions in reference (b) pertaining to flight surgeon flying policy apply. NA/FS/AP/AEP assigned to operational flying billets under duty in a flying status involving operational or training flights (DIFOPS) orders shall comply with the annual minimum flight hour requirements specified for naval aviators and the aviation qualification/ currency requirements (naval aviator) outlined in reference (b).

d. In consonance with the statutory provisions of reference (c), NA/FS/AP/AEP will not be entitled to continuous aviation career incentive pay or accumulation of operational flying credit, but will be entitled to monthly incentive pay when assigned to operational flying status, provided monthly performance requirements are met.

12. Responsibilities

a. CNO (N889)

(1) Resource sponsor for the program.

(2) Direct specific pilot training requirements to support the NA/FS/AP/AEP Program.

b. Chief, BUMED (MED-23)

(1) Overall program sponsor.

(2) Coordinate with CNO (N889) and Chief of Naval Personnel in joint areas of program management.

(3) Act as the Medical Specialty Advisor for flight surgeons/aerospace physiologist/aviation experimental psychologists designated as NA/FS/AP/AEP.

c. Chief of Naval Personnel (Pers-43). Coordinate all personnel actions relating to the general training and assignment of NA/FS/AP/AEP personnel.

d. CNATRA. Ensure personnel are trained for the NA/FS/AP/AEP program in accordance with guideline established by CNO (N88).

13. Action

a. CNO (N889)

(1) Annually assess, in conjunction with BUMED, the NA/FS/AP/AEP program.

(2) Determine each year the actual number of flight surgeons to be trained as NA/FS/AP/AEP based on existing aeromedical research requirements in coordination with BUMED (MED-23).

(3) Annually release a message to announce the upcoming NA/FS/AP/AEP training requirements, specify application procedures/deadlines and solicit applications.

(4) Develop and monitor specific program training requirements leading to the NA/FS/AP/AEP designation.

b. BUMED (MED-23)

(1) Coordinate and monitor duty assignments of NA/FS/AP/AEP designated individuals to achieve maximum program benefit.

(2) Identify, coordinate, and ensure the provision, in conjunction with CNO (N889), of subsequent specialized training as may become necessary to fill program requirements.

(3) Monitor career paths of individuals designated NA/FS/AP/AEP.

(4) Annually assess, in conjunction with CNO (N889), the NA/FS/AP/AEP program.

c. Chief of Naval Personnel (Pers-43)

(1) Receive and track all applications for NA/FS/AP/AEP Training.

(2) Annually, convene and chair a board for the selection of applicants for training as a NA/FS/AP/AEP.

(3) Notify applicants of their selection.

d. CNATRA

(1) Determine individual training requirements for candidate NA/FS/AP/AEP, on a case basis.

01 Oct 99

c. Chief of Naval Personnel (Pers-43)

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(2) Annually, convene and chair a board for the selection of applicants for training as a NA/FS/AP/AEP.

(3) Notify applicants of their selection.

d. CNATRA

(1) Determine individual training requirements for candidate NA/FS/AP/AEP, on a case basis.

(2) Monitor the progress of personnel in training for the NA/FS/AP/AEP designation and report, as appropriate, to CNO (N889) and BUMED (MED-23).

14. Form. OPNAV 1542/2 (6/99), Naval Aviator/Flight Surgeon/Aerospace Physiologist/Aviation Experimental Psychologist Program Application, is provided as enclosure (1).

J. B. NATHMAN
Director, Air Warfare (N88)

Distribution:
SNDL Parts 1 and 2

01 Oct 1999

NAVAL AVIATOR/FLIGHT SURGEON/AEROSPACE PHYSIOLOGIST/AVIATION EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGIST PROGRAM APPLICATION

1. Name (Last, First, MI)		2. Grade	3. SSN	4. Date of Birth
5. Home Address (Zip+4)		6. Home Telephone		7. Complete Duty Address
		()		
8. Duty Telephone: ()			9. Email Address:	
10. Designation(s)			11. Date of Designation	12. Certification Type/Number
a. Naval Aviator				
b. Naval Flight Officer				
c. Naval Flight Surgeon				
d. Naval Flight Physiologist				
e. Other Service Pilot Ratings Air Force____ Army____				
13. Previous Military Service beginning with most recent (include any broken service):				
Command			Dates	
14. Flight Experience:				
Military			Civillian	
Aircraft Type	Time		Aircraft Type	Time
15. Date of current complete aviation physical exam: _____				
16. Attach curriculum vitae.				

I certify the above information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301, Department Regulations, Executive Order 9397 (SSN), and OPNAVINST 1542.4B.

Purpose: To apply for the Dual Designator Program.

Routine Use: Information will be provided to the Dual Designator board for the purpose of selection to the program. Information not disseminated outside DOD.

Disclosure: Voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information may result in your not being considered for the Dual Designator Program.

OPNAV 1542/2 (6-99)

Enclosure (1)